

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nonreciprocal circuit device comprising:

a permanent magnet;

a ferrite member which is adapted to receive a direct current magnetic field applied by the permanent magnet, said ferrite member including a plurality of central electrodes; and

a metal case containing the permanent magnet, the ferrite member, and the plurality of central electrodes;

wherein the metal case has a gap for cutting off a loop current flowing around the ferrite member and the plurality of central electrodes.

2. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 1, wherein the metal case is integrally formed.

3. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 1, wherein the metal case is formed by a plurality of components.

4. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 1, wherein the metal case is rotation-symmetric with respect to the axis of the permanent magnet.

5. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 2, wherein a cross section of the metal case has a substantially rectangular frame shape formed by bending a substantially rectangular metal plate at four positions in parallel to an edge of the metal plate.

6. A nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 3, wherein the metal case is composed of an upper case unit and a lower case unit, and a gap is disposed at least between one edge of the upper case unit and one edge of the lower case unit opposite to the one edge of the upper case unit.

7. A communication apparatus comprising at least one of the nonreciprocal circuit devices according to Claims 1 to 6.